

## Humorous Department

**Their Pains Useless.**—"You knew we had a French maid and German butler."

"Yes."

"Well, we've been worried over them ever since the war broke out. We took the greatest pains to set them an example of neutrality. We were afraid all the time that it would be impossible to keep them from flying at each other. Of course, we were careful not to discuss the war before them. In short, we've been taking a whole lot of trouble for months to help them keep the peace. I can't begin to tell you how careful we were. And what do you suppose happened yesterday?"

"Why, a pitched battle?"

"Nothing of the sort. It seems the two were engaged long before the war broke out, and yesterday they were married."

**He Knew the Answer.**—In a country school the teacher was trying to make the lesson as interesting as possible to her class of little ones.

"Now, children," she said, "you have named all the domestic animals but one. Who can tell us what that one is?"

There was no reply.

"What?" exclaimed the teacher; "does no one know? What animal has bristly hair, is dirty all the time and loves getting into the mud?"

A small boy raised a timid hand.

"Well, Allen," said the teacher, "tell us what it is."

"Please, mam," said the little boy reflectively, "it's me."

**A Good Job.**—A certain cottage and its old mistress had improved so greatly in comfort and appearance that a visitor shrewdly surmised that the son of the house, a lazy, ne'er-do-well, had turned over a new leaf. He inquired about it.

"Yes, sir, my son's in work now," said the smiling old mother. "All he has to do is to go twice a day to the circus and put his head in the lion's mouth. The rest of his time he 'as to himself.'—Buffalo News.

**An Appropriate Name.**—Aunt "Liza's" former mistress was talking to her one morning, when suddenly she discovered a little pickaninny standing shyly behind his mother's skirts. "Is this your little boy, Aunt 'Liza'?" she asked.

"Yes, Miss, dat's Prescriptions."

"Goodness, what a funny name. Auntie, for a child! How in the world did you happen to call him that?"

"Ah simply call him dat becuz Ah has seen hawd wuk gettin' him filled."

**"Standing by the Butcher."**—"How is it," inquired a young bride of an older married friend, "that you always manage to have such delicious beef?"

"It's very simple," said the older woman, "I first select a good, honest butcher, and then I stand by him."

"You mean that you give him all of your trade?"

"No; I mean that I stand by him while he is cutting the meat."

**As He Told It.**—A marine was testifying about the explosion of a gun on a vessel—an explosion which had sent him to the hospital for some months.

"Please give your version of the explosion," he was asked.

"Well," he said, "I was standing beside the gun, there was an awful racket, and the doctor said: 'Sit up and take this.'"

**It Worked.**—The conductor was about to give the motorman the high sign.

"Wait!" cried a shrill feminine voice; "wait till I get my clothes on!"

Everyone in the car was suddenly afflicted with the rubber habit.

What they saw was an obese woman trying to lift a basket of laundry to the rear platform.

Then the car rolled on.

**They Had Cut Him Down.**—One day, in the lively old city of cowboy activities, a timid tenderfoot at Bitter Creek asked tremblingly if that bad man, Bill Butler, was hanging around there yet.

"No," replied the native who was asked, "but he was here last week."

"Are you sure?" said the tenderfoot.

"Positive. I had hold of the rope."

—Browning's Magazine.

**Feed for the Cow.**—An old Scotch woman had been promised a new bonnet, and before making the purchase the donor called and inquired: "Would you rather have a felt or a straw bonnet, Mrs. McDonald?"

"Weel, mam," said the canny old lady thoughtfully, "I think I'll take a straw one. When I'm done with it, it'll maybe be a mouthful to the cow."

**Not For Him.**—"What kind of meat have you this morning?" asked the husband of the butcher.

"The best steak we have ever had, sir," replied the butcher. "Here you are, sir; as smooth as velvet and as tender as a woman's heart."

The husband looked up and said: "I'll take sausage."

**A Different Question.**—"Yes," said the colonel, pompously, "I am quite confident that the war will be over by October."

"What year?" asked Bilalad.

"Ah," said the colonel, "that is another question."—Judge.

**The Rough Path of the Autoist.**—"Doesn't it give you a terrible feeling when you run over a man?" they asked him.

"Well, if he's a large man," replied the automobilist, "it does give me a pretty rough jolt."

**An Idyl.**—"He is my ideal and I'm his idol," said the girl.

"And your love affair?"

"Is an idyl."

"And your fiancé?"

"He's idle, according to papa."

**Oh, Now, That's Different.**—Ella—How do you like Jack, dear?

Stella—Oh, he's a perfect bear.

Ella—Growned all the time, I suppose?

Stella—Er, no honey—wanted to hug all the time.

**Her Classification.**—A little girl, when asked by her teacher to distinguish between the human and the animal families, replied:

"A brute is an imperfect beast; man is a perfect beast."

**A Definition.**—"Dad, what is meant by carrying coals to Newcastle?"

"It's a figure of speech, my boy. Like trying to tell something to a graduating class that they don't know."—Pittsburgh Post.

## Miscellaneous Reading

## MELTING BRITISH GOLD

## Beautifully Minted Sovereigns Converted into Rough Bars

A crew of grimy-faced workmen in the United States assay office near the corner of Wall and Broad streets will finish some time tonight the task of converting more than 2,000,000 shiny gold sovereigns, each beautifully minted, into rough bricks, smudged with charcoal soot.

The bricks will stand on wooden trucks until they have cooled off to the handling stage, when they will be trundled across the room and put into Uncle Sam's vaults. Washington in a few days will direct that some bricks be sent to Philadelphia. The mint in that city will put them back into the melting pots, add a little more alloy, and turn them into shiny coins again, at a considerable expense. But this time they will become United States gold.

The new coins, as likely as not, will come back to New York, this time to stop in the sub-treasury, which is next door to the assay office. When war is over and Europe has begun to regain the ascendancy in overseas trade that she lost with the first month of hostilities, the time will come when gold must go to London or to Paris to restore the balance of credits again. Thereupon, Lazard Freres, or Goldman, Sachs, or perhaps J. P. Morgan & Co., will deposit several millions in gold certificates at the sub-treasury, withdraw the gold coins and ship them in little oaken kegs to the other side. There they may be kept intact in the Bank of England, or, if there is need of money for coinage than is coming from South Africa, they will be thrown into the furnaces to be turned back into bricks. It is a waste that no one excuses, but which efforts to avoid have not overcome.

There have been three shipments of gold of a very unusual character made from London to New York in the last few weeks. Each of these consisted of approximately \$200,000, and was made on a fast British cruiser. The secrecy that is thrown around everything that the British authorities do has clouded the operation with mystery, but it is rumored that arrangements were made to send \$100,000,000 in gold here to pay for part of the war supplies, which would indicate that two more shipments of the same size may be expected.

The first two consignments were made in United States coins, \$20 gold pieces, which were packed \$3,000 to a bag, three bags to a box. The law provides that only United States currency shall be accepted at the sub-treasury, so the motor trucks bearing the treasure were kept idle while a sample box was unloaded and carried up the building to be examined.

When it was found that the contents were gold eagles the shipment was admitted. The third shipment, which reached Wall street last Wednesday morning, was made up to the extent of \$7,500,000 in United States coins and \$1,615,000 in sovereigns. The sovereigns were taken into the assay office.

Gold is nearly always in transit among the leading nations. The waste and expense connected with the process of melting coins into bars, and minting the bullion again is so considerable that American bankers made an attempt a few years ago to put an end to the destruction. They took the matter up with the treasury department and procured the passage of an act in 1911, permitting the sub-treasuries to hold foreign gold coins at their bullion value, giving the importers a credit for the amount, less a deduction for light-weight coins, dirt and other foreign matter contained in them. It was proposed to hold these gold pieces until an export movement was undertaken again when they were to be sent back to the country from which they had issued.

The law and rulings under it issued by Secretary McVeagh were exactly what the importing bankers had desired, but these regulations became worthless almost before the printed coins were available. The reason was that the bankers who brought in \$10,000,000 or so in sovereigns found themselves charged with what they considered excessive depreciation. When they were told that the full bullion value, reckoned on the arbitrary basis of used gold coin, had been credited to them, they insisted on having the actual bullion value. The foreign currency, accordingly had to go through the assay office after all, and the privileges of the new act were nullified.

Similarly, much of the United States coin that goes to Europe never returns in the same form, but the fact that the Bank of England and the government are not synonymous enables that institution to use its discretion in the matter of gold consigned to it, and of late it has held some of the American coin for re-export. The fact that the last shipment contained less than half American currency is taken to indicate that there is no more United States coin in the bank so that it appears that a considerable amount of the money exported in the summer of 1914 will not come back in its familiar form.

The English ship our gold coin back as re-export. They pay no attention to the count, and to bring each bag up to the required weight they chop gold eagles into many small triangular bits, enough of which are included in each bag to make up the required weight. The sub-treasury here, on the other hand, reckons by country, or tale, and it credits the importer only with the whole coins. The chips are turned over to the assay office, which melts them up and reports back the additional credit to be given. In the case of recent shipments the value of these remnants has run up to several thousand dollars.

The latest shipment of gold, with its \$11,615,000 in sovereigns, made a total of nearly 2,500,000 sovereigns. In English coin came from other sources. The importers were anxious to get the benefit of the amount to their credit as soon as possible and as fast as the boxes were received the coin was put upon the scales and turned over to the molders.

The rough roads of the assay office have no special refinements to distinguish it from the casting room of an ordinary foundry, and the matter-of-fact way in which gold is left lying about shows that it has no glamor for the men working in it. The British sovereigns are heaped into wooden troughs, which are wheeled up to be within reach of the furnace men. The men wear heavy wooden shirts and asbestos gloves, but they have no protection for the face, and the heat from the

## HARDING ON COTTON

## Discussion of Responsibility Devolving on Southern Bankers

This week when W. P. G. Harding, a member of the Federal reserve board, speaks at Raleigh he will have something interesting to say about cotton. Being a southern banker, Mr. Harding knows much about the handling of cotton.

"Not since the days of the Civil war," said Mr. Harding, discussing the situation in the south, "has cotton occupied so prominent a place in international affairs as at present. By virtue of its use in the manufacture of explosives its possession has become a necessity to the nations at war. Great Britain and her allies, having practical control of ocean transportation, announced, some months ago, their purpose of preventing shipments of cotton reaching Germany and Austria, either directly or through neutral countries.

The orders-in-council which became effective last February, have caused a great deal of protest in this country, the position being taken that no belligerent had the right to interfere with the shipment of non-contraband goods from a neutral country to another neutral country. While these orders-in-council have been the source of much irritation, it is claimed that they have not been effective in accomplishing their object, and the marked increase in exports of cotton from this country to Holland and Sweden, as well as to Italy, up to the time that she also became involved in the war, would indicate that Germany has been receiving practically her usual amount of cotton through neutral countries."

Mr. Harding will talk of the conditions abroad as they affect cotton, and of other important American crops at Raleigh. He is very optimistic.

**Great Opportunity.**

"The bankers and merchants of the south," Mr. Harding says, "have at this time a great opportunity as well as a great responsibility. They are in close and intimate contact with the products throughout the cotton belt, and are in the best position to advise and assist them in taking the steps necessary to protect their interests which are also the interests of the whole south. For the second time within recent years we have seen a large crop sell for far less money in the aggregate than a moderate crop brought the preceding year. They have an opportunity of conserving the values of the south's greatest single asset."

By allotting \$20,000,000 on the 6 per cent condition stipulated, 6 per cent might become the prevailing rate of interest on cotton loans. In doing this, however, it would be putting the treasury in competition with the Federal Reserve Bank as a means of stimulating competition among the member banks. There would be little demand for the 4-1/2 per cent money of the Federal Reserve Bank so long as there is any free government movement to be obtained."

—Wall Street Journal.

**General News Notes**

**Items of Interest Gathered from All Around the World.**

The British government is reported to have placed orders with Canadian manufacturers for \$55,000,000 worth of field artillery and howitzers.

It is rumored in Washington that Secretary of Commerce Redfield will be asked to resign his position because he is talking too much and talking without facts.

Bugler Roland, sole survivor of those who took part in the battle of Sidi Brehim in 1845, in the French war of subjugation in Algeria, died Friday in France, aged 95 years.

Dr. F. I. Cohen, a Philadelphia physician, has been indicted by a Federal grand jury in that city on 83 cases, charging conspiracy to violate the Harrison anti-narcotic drug law.

A negro automobile washer, sat in the front seat of a car as it plunged down an elevator shaft from the eighth floor of a building in New York, Friday. He was not seriously hurt.

Franklin Burton, ex-mayor of Ansonia, Conn., was arrested and charged with embezzling \$136,000 from the Savings bank of that city on bogus notes during the past fifteen years.

Newman Epp, a wealthy financier and railroad magnate of New York, on last Friday night took two bichloride of mercury tablets by mistake. His condition is desperate, but his physicians are hopeful of his recovery.

An imperial ukase by the czar of Russia, issued Friday, called to the colors the reserve of the territorial army. If the age limit is fixed at 35 years, the call will bring out an addition of 8,000,000 fighting men.

The city comptroller of New York, has recommended to the board of education that it lengthen the school day by one hour and the year by four weeks, on the ground that such a change would give a year in the elementary school course.

The state department at Washington has received information to the effect that there were eighteen bombs found on the Fabre liner Sant' Anna, from New York to Marseilles, which recently was fired at sea, and a bomb explosion. The ship safely reached the Azores with its 764 passengers.

The proposed new treaty between the United States and Haiti was signed by the president of Haiti on Thursday, and is expected to be ratified by the Haitian senate. The treaty provides: First, The establishment of a Haitian receivership of customs under American control. Second, The establishment of a native constabulary force under command of American officers. Third, The establishment of a native constabulary force over the finances of Haiti, to the extent necessary to prevent speculation and safeguard the interest of the Haitian people. Fourth, The term of the treaty is for 10 years, and at the end of that period it may be extended at the request of either signatory.

## NATURAL COTTON COLORS

## Mr. Brabham's Experiments Excite Interest Abroad

That South Carolinian who announces he has produced cotton of warm tan, yellow green, light brown, olive green and bronze colors, and is sanguine he will produce black cotton in the near future, has solved the dyeing problem in part at least, if his statement is true. Luther Burbank thinks it doubtful that black cotton can be produced this generation, if ever.

Still, it is possible South Carolina has a Burbank or possibly even a greater than Burbank. Americans, at least, will wish him success in his efforts to produce natural cotton colors. Nature's alchemy certainly is capable of producing more beautiful tints and colors than any German or Swiss chemist in his factory, but so far the open sesame to the secrets of her color schemes has not been found. And nature's colors are "fast," they do not run, and her mordants do their work with a perfection no laboratory can achieve.

But nature's laboratory secrets are carefully guarded. She fashions her colors in accordance with laws which the greatest chemists only happen upon occasionally, as in the discovery of the coal tar colors. The best the chemists could do, even in that case, was by the painful process of the synthetic production of alizarine from its constituent elements.

To get nature herself to perform this work would be one of the greatest triumphs of science in modern times. In fact, it is so great that it will require abundant demonstration and confirmation before the world and cotton growers especially, can be convinced that the South Carolinian's reported discovery is genuine.—New York Sun.

## COTTON LOAN RATES

## Northern Banks Not Likely to Figure So Largely as Usual in Making Loans South—The Treasury Aid

Northern banks are not likely to figure so largely as usual in making the customary loans to southern banks for marketing the cotton crop. The southern banks have been repeatedly proclaimed as capable of handling cotton without much if any outside aid. Although this is not generally the case, the readiness of the Federal treasury to add \$30,000,000 of its funds to the supply, as Mr. McAdoo announced recently, leaves the interest rate situation in an easier position than in previous years.

Incidental to the proffer of treasury aid, the secretary stipulated that the member banks should limit their loans to customers upon cotton to 6 per cent, and some of the Texas banks are now announcing this fact.

There appears no such authority on the part of the Federal reserve board, and the Federal reserve board, as many seem to think, has no such authority. The Federal reserve board can fix the rate of rediscount to be charged by the Federal Reserve Bank, but it has no authority over the member banks. At present the rediscount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank is 4-1/2 per cent. At that price member banks can get money from the Federal Reserve Bank on the security of cotton paper. That money they can offer to farmers at any price their pleasure dictates.

By allotting \$20,000,000 on the 6 per cent condition stipulated, 6 per cent might become the prevailing rate of interest on cotton loans. In doing this, however, it would be putting the treasury in competition with the Federal Reserve Bank as a means of stimulating competition among the member banks. There would be little demand for the 4-1/2 per cent money of the Federal Reserve Bank so long as there is any free government movement to be obtained."

—Wall Street Journal.

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**LOUIS ROTH FREE**

—TO OUR CUSTOMERS—

Call At Our Store and See the ALUMINUM KITCHEN WARE which we are Giving Away Absolutely Free to Cash Customers of this store.

**THE PLAN**

Is simply this—Every Cash purchase you make at this store, amounting to five cents (5c) or more, entitles you to a coupon—your save the coupons until your total Cash purchases reach the amount necessary to entitle you to the pieces you desire, then bring the coupons to us and the Aluminum Ware is yours—ABSOLUTELY FREE.

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Don't forget to eat Stone's Cakes—9 oz.—10 Cts.—Fresh.

**W. E. FERGUSON**

**LET US INSIST--**

That you persist in teaching your children to persist in taking proper care of their teeth. Doctors who give such matters their attention, will tell you that many children suffer from many diseases that are caused directly or indirectly by carelessness in attention to the teeth. It is easy to keep the teeth in good shape and the mouth in good hygienic condition if the proper Mouth Washes and Dentifrices are used frequently with a good Tooth Brush.

See us for Dentifrices—Pastes, Powders and Liquids, and see us for First-Class Tooth Brushes.

Yes, let us insist that you insist that your children persist in keeping their teeth in proper shape with persistent attention.

**YORK DRUG STORE**

**OWENSBORO Wagons Are the Best**

Built by a Southern factory for Southern Farmers.

We Sell Owensboro Wagons—We have your size and Our Prices are Just Right.

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You will probably need one of these implements in preparing your seed beds for your fall sowings of grain and grasses. See Us before buying.

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SHARON, - - - S. C.

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HELPFULNESS. You help us and we help you. Deposit your funds in this bank and pay your bills with Checks against your deposits. This is the practice of the best business men and women everywhere—it is the only correct way to do business. Paying with Checks is a constant guard to you against wastefulness and extravagance. You'll always think twice before you write a check to pay for what the Bank Will Save You Money. Open an Account with US TODAY.

We will Loan Money at 6 Per Cent On Cotton Warehouse Receipts. J. S. HARTNESS, Cashier.

## LUMBER?

## NEED ANY? Rough or Dressed Lumber Products, etc.

We will serve you better and at lower prices. See us for Shingles, Lime Cement, Paints, etc. Builders' Hardware

Locks, Door and Blind Hinges, Nails, Screws, Blind Fasteners, Door Catches, Sash Lifts and Locks, Transom Bars and Lifts, Pivot Hinges, Swinging Door Sets, Store Door and Front Door Sets, Etc., Etc., Etc.

JNO. R. LOGAN

**THE AGENT OF ANOTHER Company**

But Who Carries Insurance On His Own Life in the Mutual Benefit, Says—

"If the average business man were in position to personally observe the entire process of the Mutual Benefit in the treatment of its policyholders, the claims it pays (which no other company would confer), I repeat, if the average business man had personal knowledge of these facts, you could sell all the insurance you wanted without a sales force."

While the agent above quoted states an exact truth, it is also true that the average business man, as well as all other kinds, learn before they look and buy life insurance from the agent who first presents the matter to them or for personal reasons rather than taking the trouble to see whether or not all companies are "about the same." I am prepared to give all the companies doing business in this section are "about the same," except the Mutual Benefit. Look Before You Leap.

**SAM M. GRIST, Special Agent.**

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